

# ***The National Weather Service Forecast Offices***

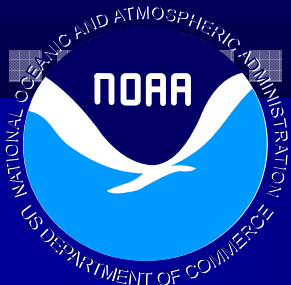
***When a hurricane begins to affect land...your Local NWS Forecast Office takes the handoff from the NWS NHC and provides its local “WFO” expertise to warnings, impacts and products for their county warning area.***

**National Hurricane Conference  
Orlando, FL – April 12, 2006**

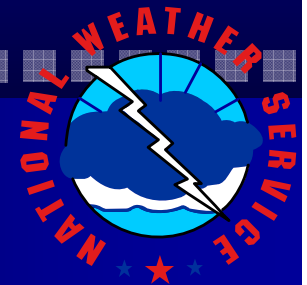
**Bill Proenza**  
Director, National Weather Service  
Southern Region

# The National Weather Service WFOs

- **...are your 24x7 “Local” weather offices** – repeatedly demonstrated local expertise in both the 2004 & 2005 hurricane seasons providing critical hurricane local statements including fine scale surge forecasts plus powerful and timely public statements, forecasts & warnings for high winds, floods and tornadoes.
- **...are the source of our vital network of dependable coastal radars.** – providing critical fine-scale radar time loops of reflectivity and velocity data depicting hurricane movements, wind speeds and structure as they approach land. *NOW, better than ever with new GIS capability and other vital features.*
- **...are the key to life saving community preparedness-** partnering with local, state & federal emergency management and the media.



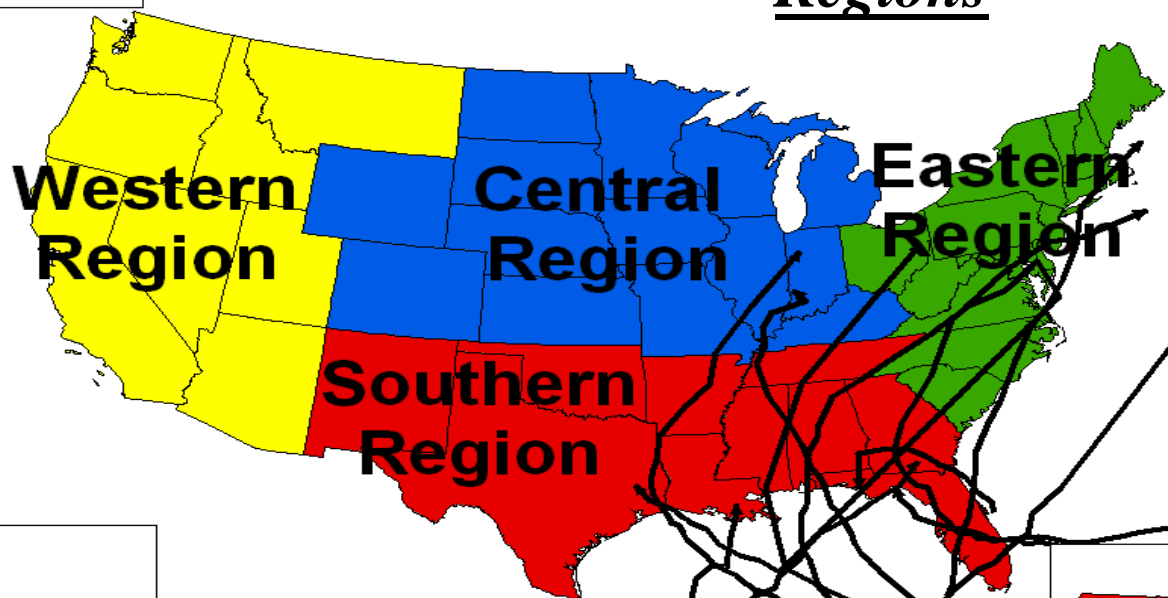
NWS SOUTHERN REGION  
[www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov)





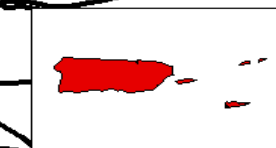
**Alaska  
Region**

**'04 & '05 Hurricane Tracks &  
National Weather Service  
Regions**

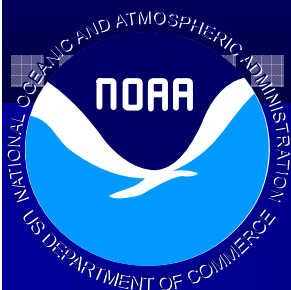


Hawaii and Guam

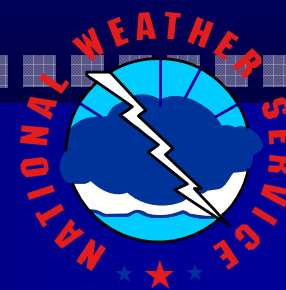
**Pacific  
Region**



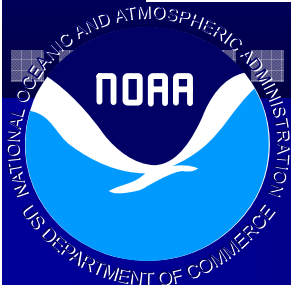
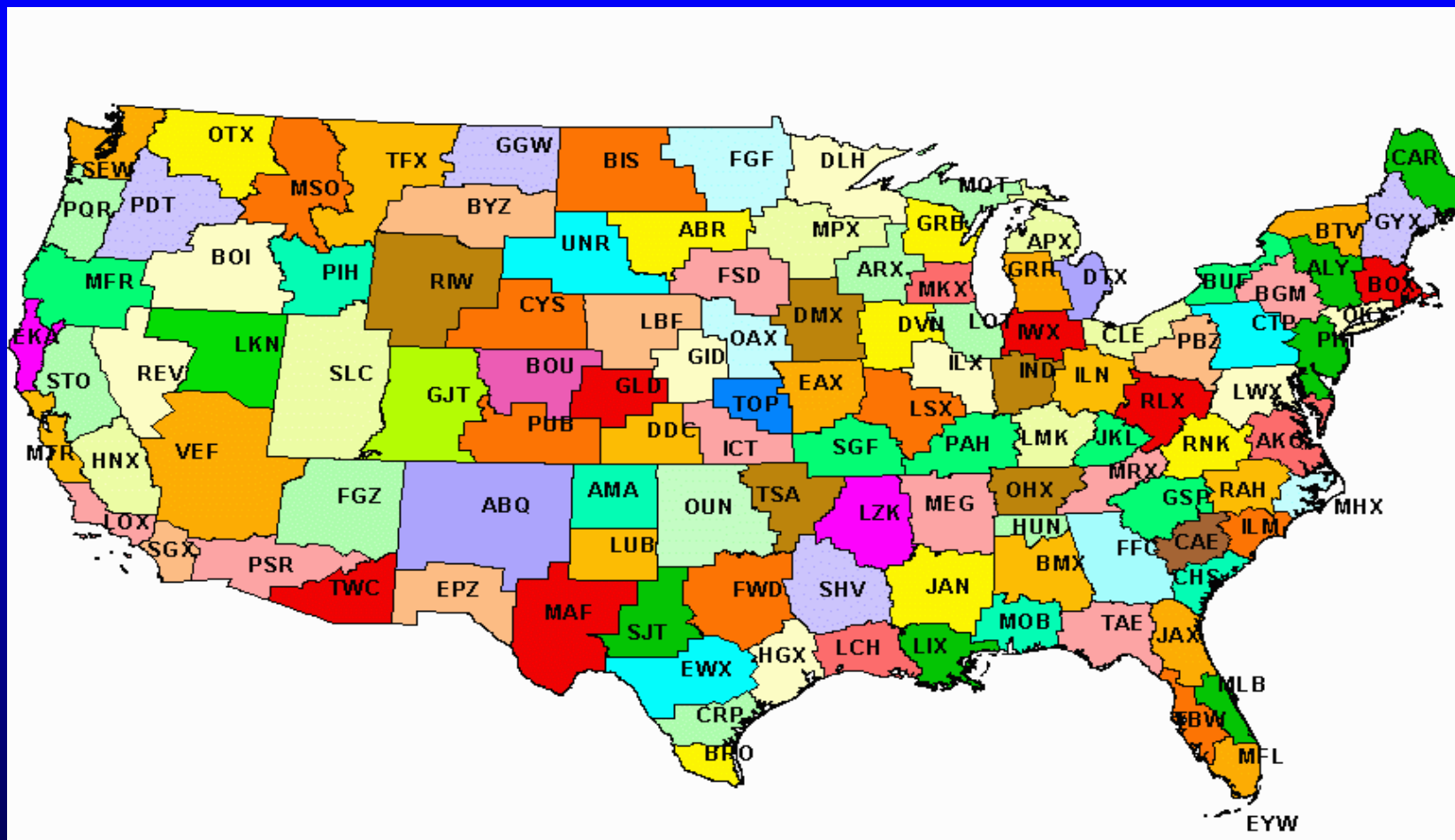
Puerto Rico and  
Virgin Islands



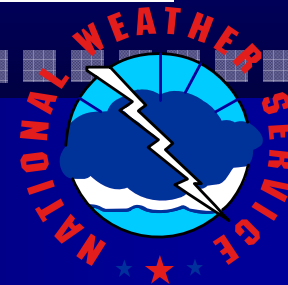
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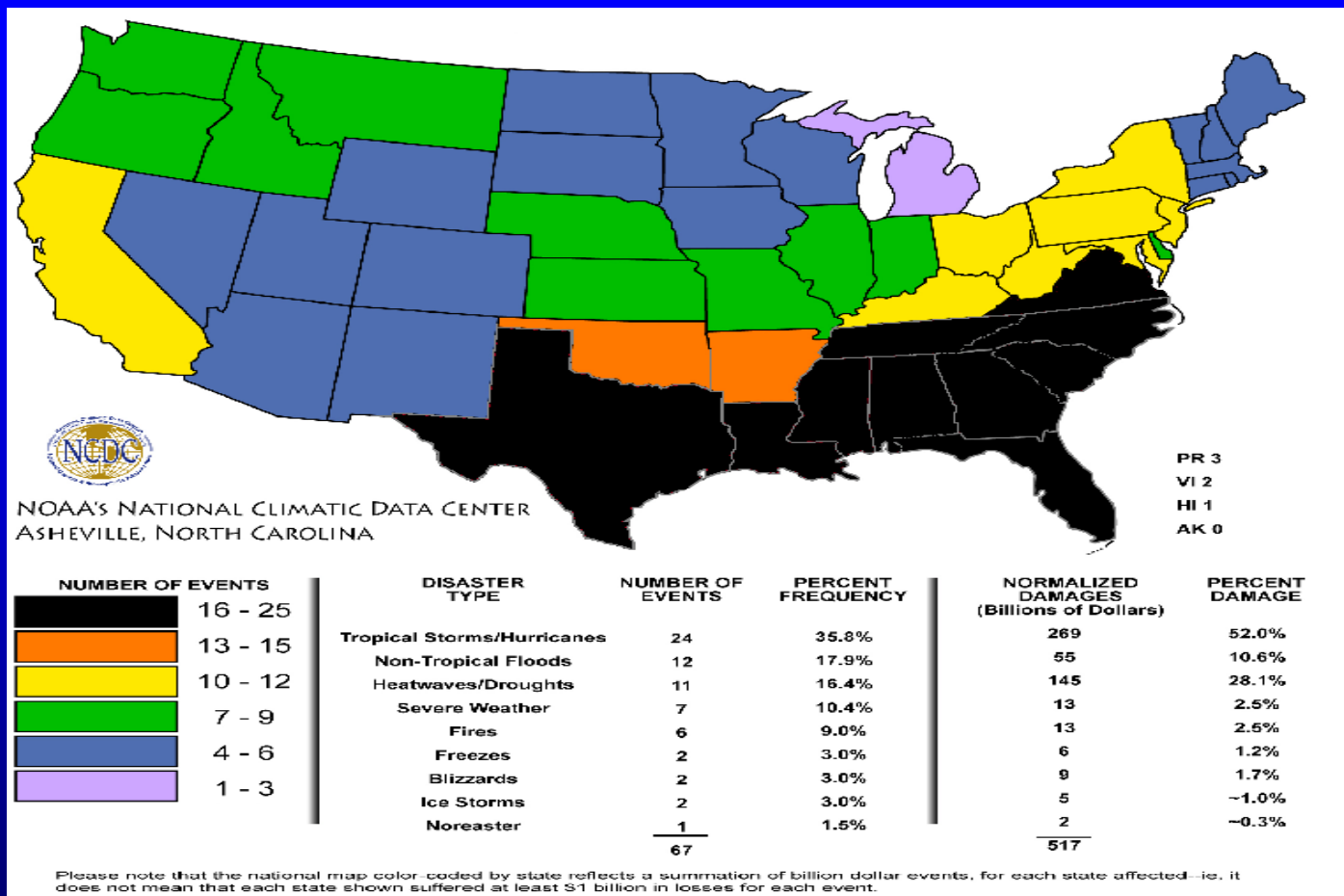
# 122 WFOs (33 coastal WFOs)



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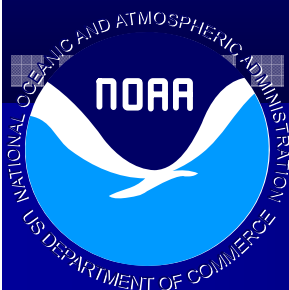


# World's Most Active Weather is Costly!

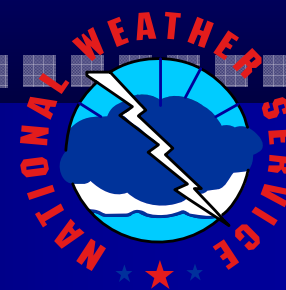


## Billion Dollar Weather Events, 1980-2005

*\*Note: A billion dollar event may be the summation of damage incurred over multiple states*

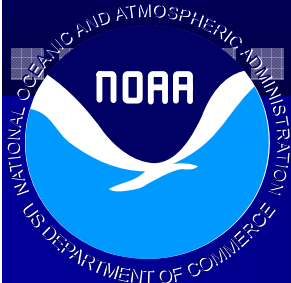
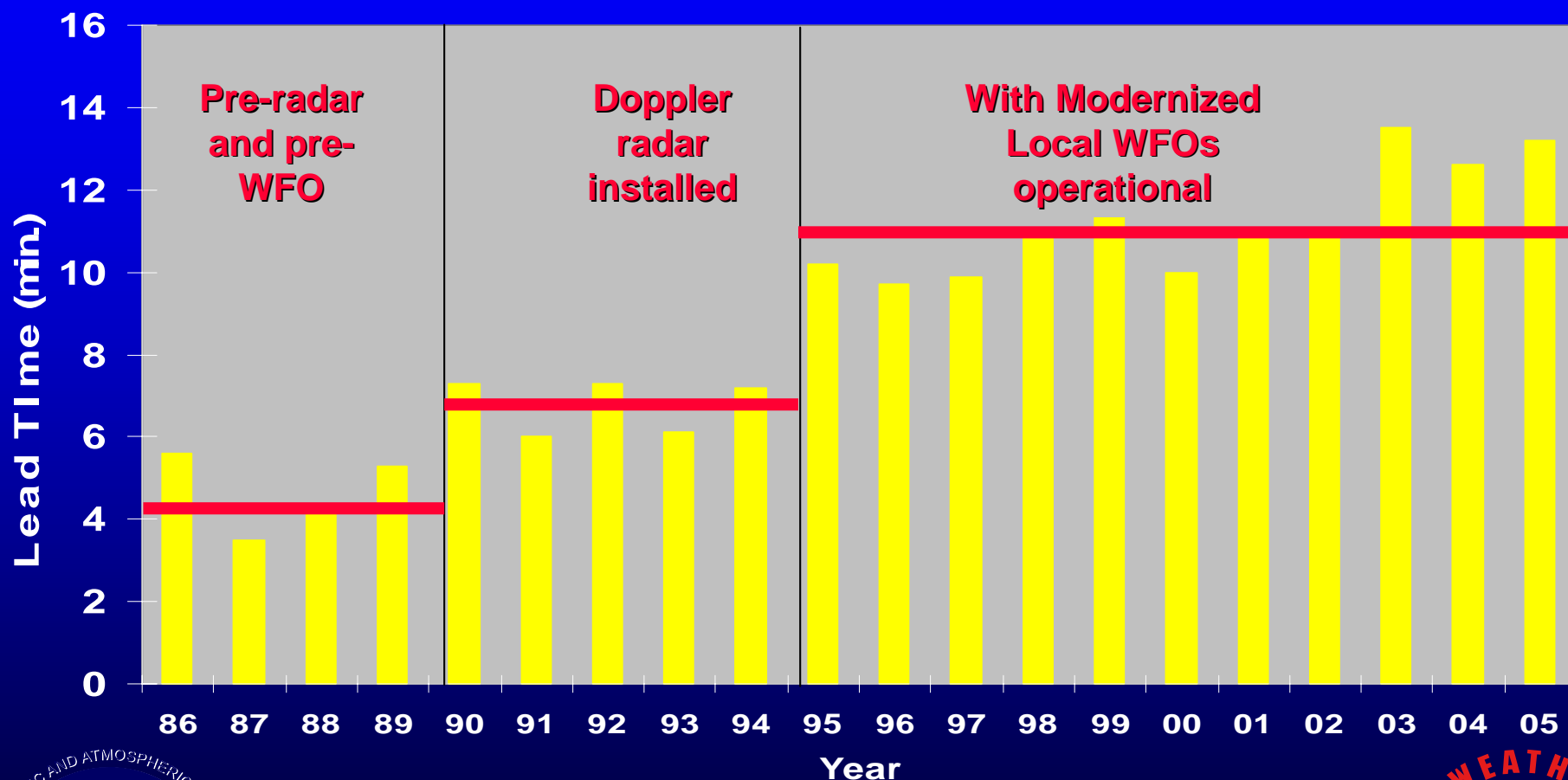


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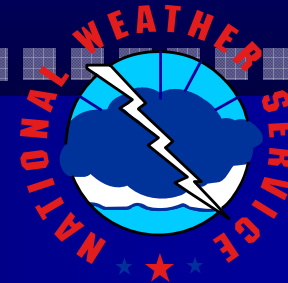


# Local WFOs Save Lives

By a tripling of Tornado Warning Lead Time

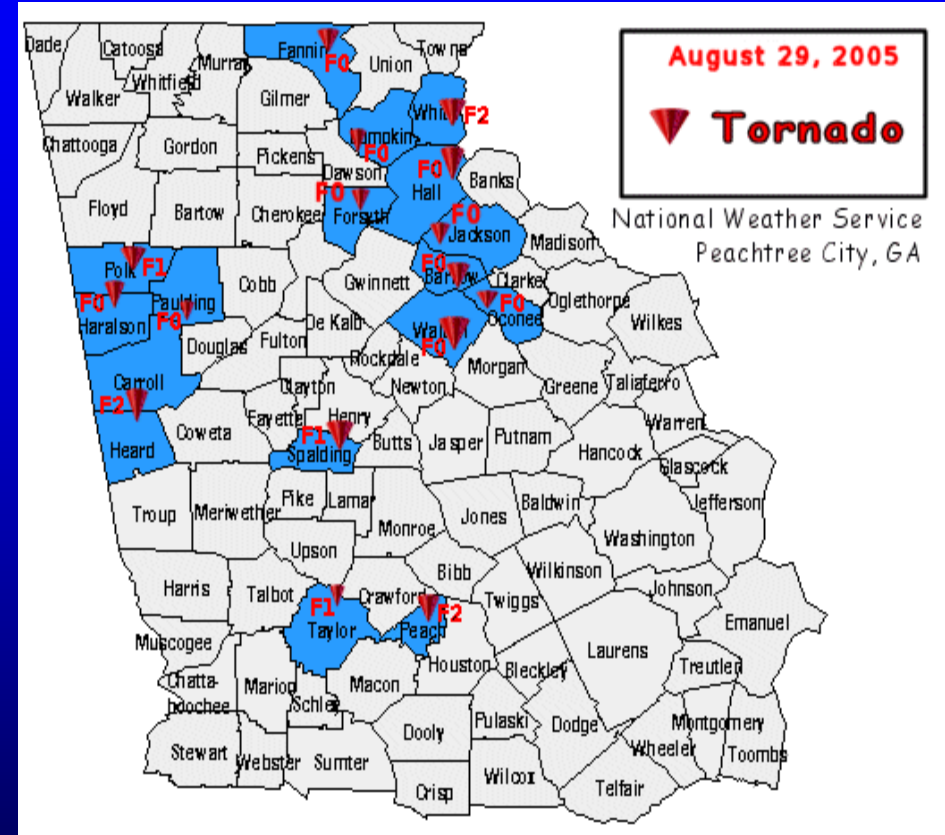


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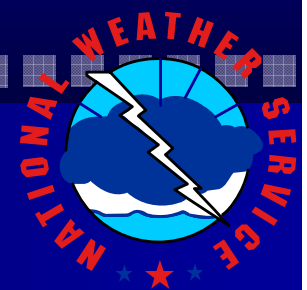


# Katrina Tornadoes in GA

- **New Georgia Records**
  - **18 Tornadoes**
    - The **most ever** in a single day
    - The **1<sup>st</sup> tornado fatality** in August (2 fatalities)
    - **Greatest dollar loss** from tornadoes in August
    - **10.4 min Avg** lead time



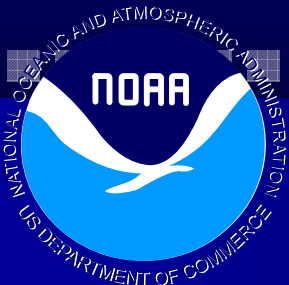
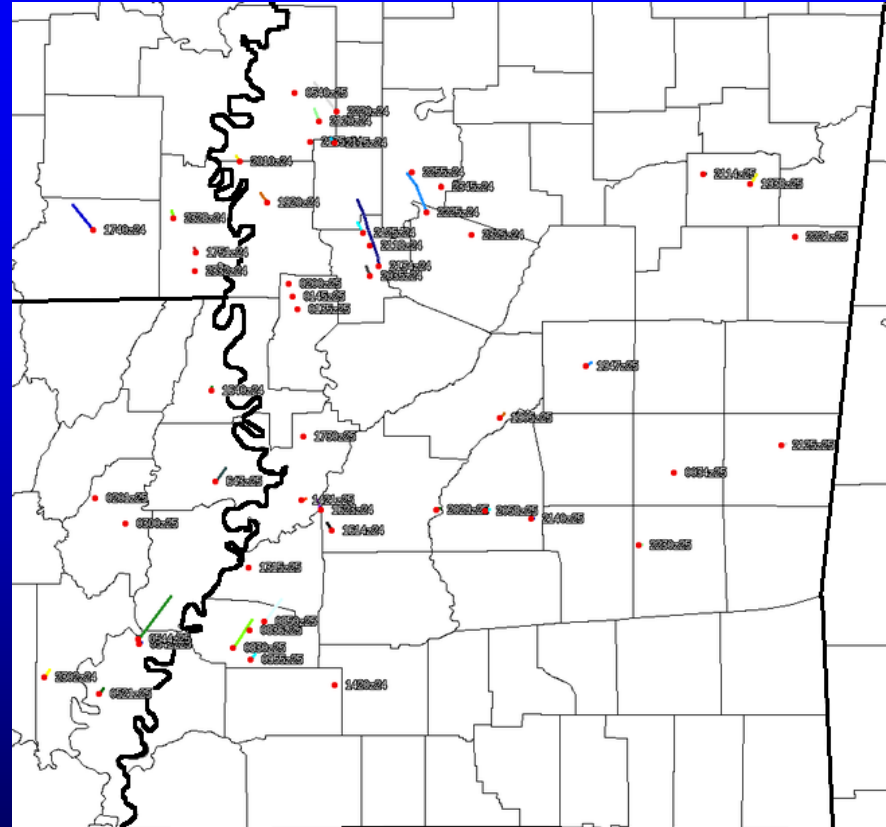
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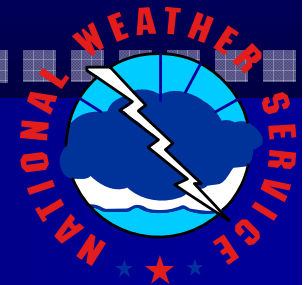


# Rita Tornadoes in Mississippi

- **51 Tornadoes**
  - Sept 23-25, 2005
  - ***Largest outbreak*** in Jackson WFO County Warning Area since records have been kept (1950)
  - ***Only 1 fatality!***
  - ***12.9 min avg lead time***



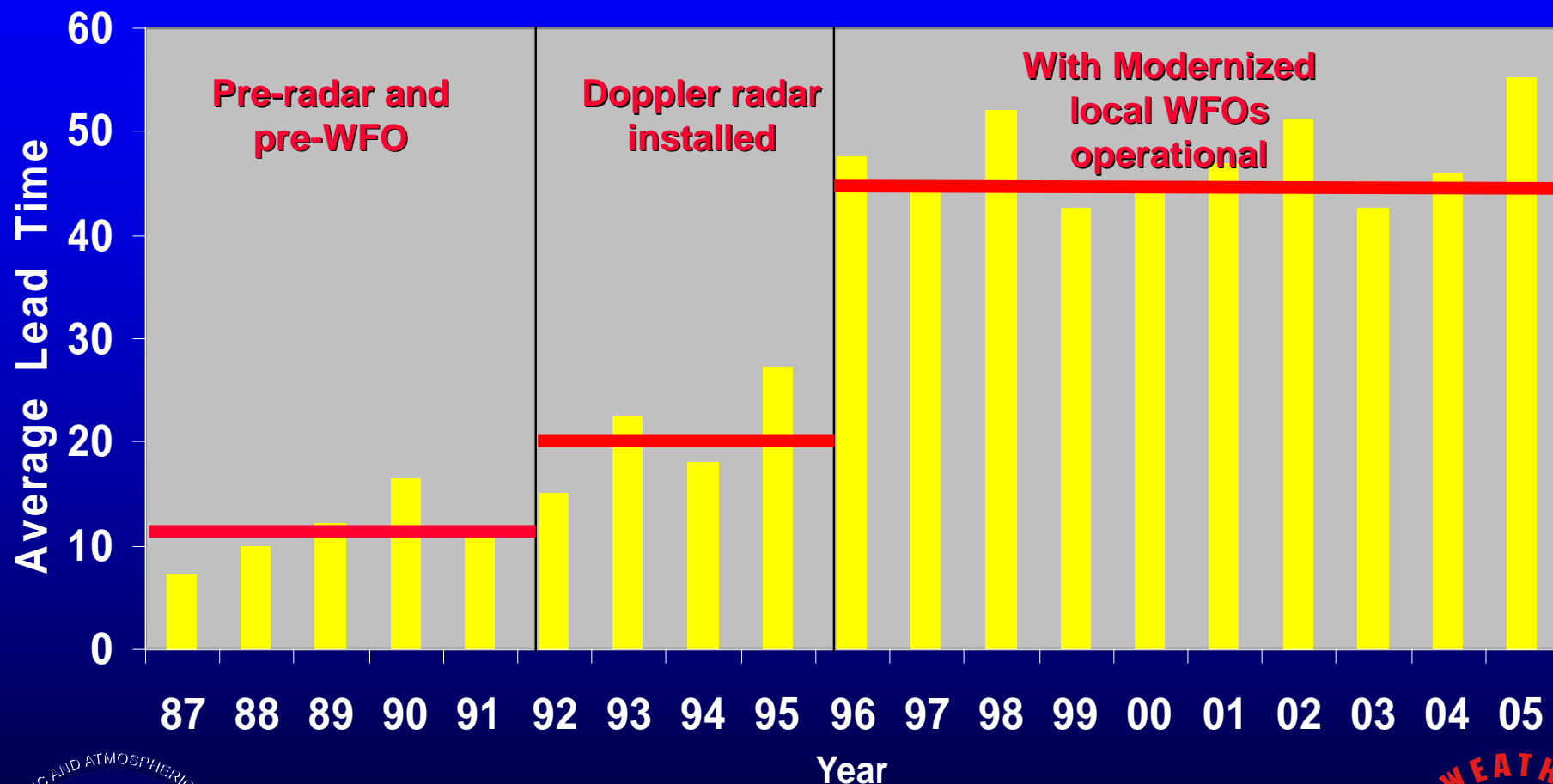
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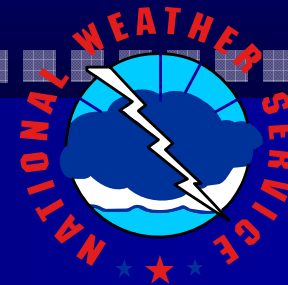


# Local WFOs Save Lives

By a tripling of Flash Flood Warning Lead Time



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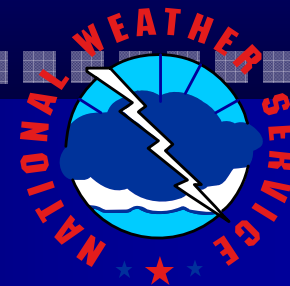


# Katrina Impacts Widely Felt

- **LMRFC** moved to **Memphis WFO**, later to **WGRFC**
- **MOB, BMX, HUN, HGX, TAE, and FWD** assumed backup roles as planned to assist offices in need ....**mostly seamless to customers!**
- **14 SR WFO's\*** and **2 RFC's** **directly** affected by Katrina's impacts
- **20 SR WFO's, 3 RFC's, and SRH** affected by wrath of Katrina



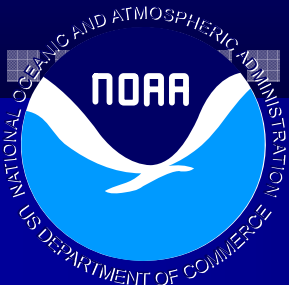
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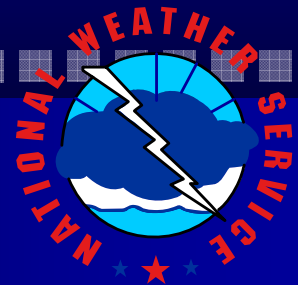
# For NWS' Latest from NHC & your Local WFO's Radar, Forecast and Warnings

**[www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov)**

- Serves as your one-stop reliable source for the latest 24x7 weather info.
- Developed for both our partners and public.
  - **Easy navigation**
  - **Data given in the manner you need it.**
  - Increases public awareness and proper response
  - **Provides the latest NWS forecasts and warnings INCLUDING it's Nat'l Hurricane Center products, graphics and advisories.**

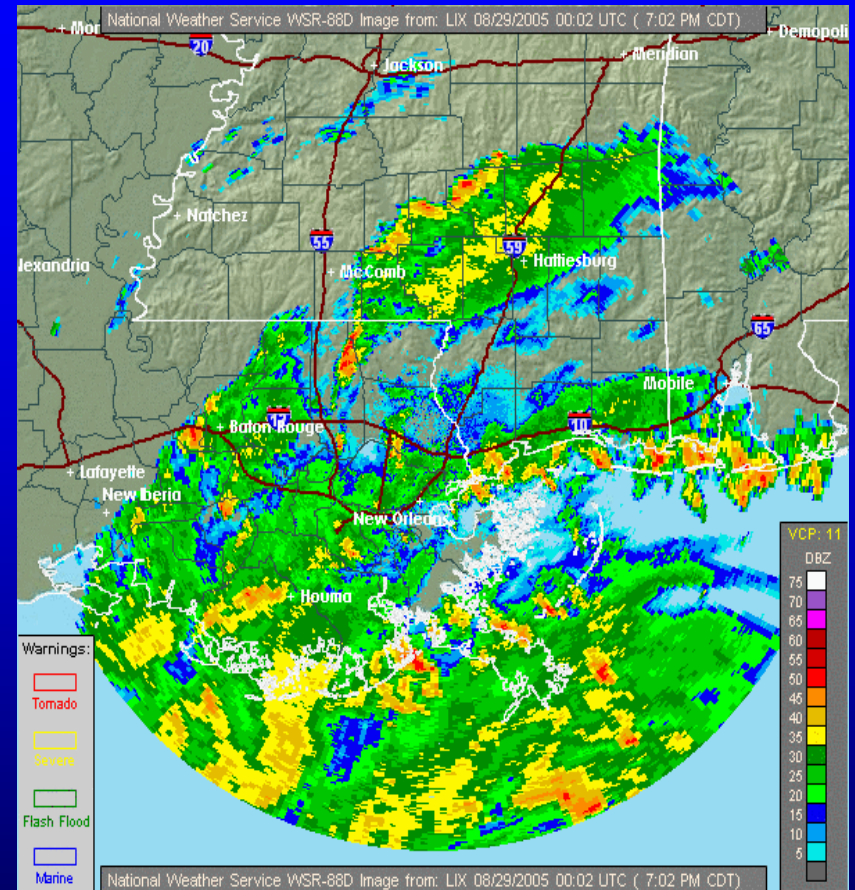


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# New NWS GIS Radar Webpages

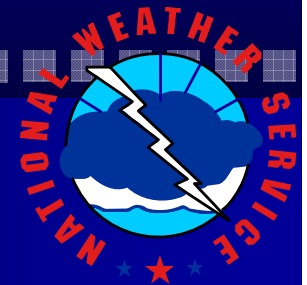
- Available as time loops for ALL Weather Service Radars
- Radar images and warnings are GIS prepared
- \*Adds NWS warning polygons to the display
- Calculates distance from a storm and determines Latitude/Longitude
- Provides real time radar reflectivity, precipitation and now, *velocity* data!
- *A Southern Region initiative, now National ... as of Feb 21, 2006*



[www.srh.weather.gov/ridge](http://www.srh.weather.gov/ridge)



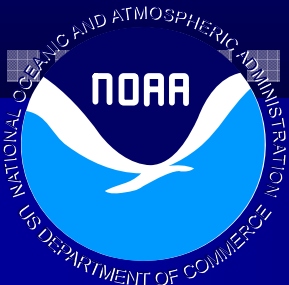
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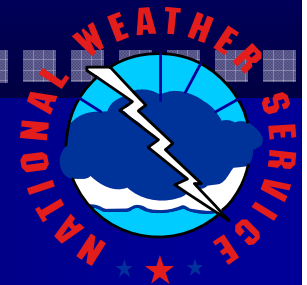
# The Future of YOUR Local NWS WFOs and RFCs

Improvement must be building on the success of the modernization and its emphasis on our local mission delivery and services to partnerships –

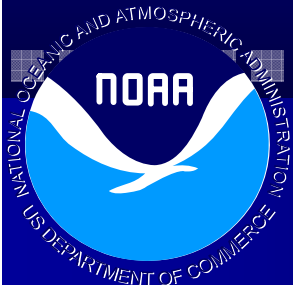
*...emphasizing mesoscale (local scale) weather & climate information, weather observations “mesonets”, better radar resolution with faster volume scans, finer scale local modeling, tactical met support to EM, digital forecasts... resulting in more lives saved.*



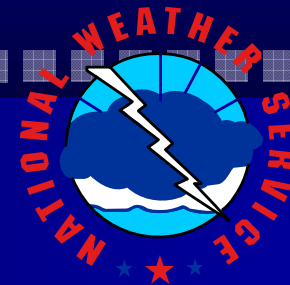
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Your NWS WFOs and RFCs  
epitomize the concept:  
**...government closest to the people,  
serves best!**



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**Questions?**  
**Bill.Proenza@noaa.gov**  
**(817) 978-1000**

**Would you like copies of the slides?**

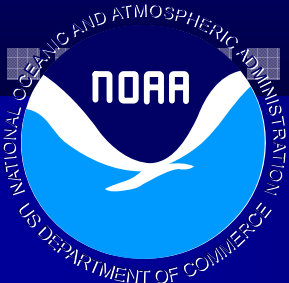
**Go To: [www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov)**

**At Left Margin Click on:**

**“Welcome from the Director”**

**At Left Margin Click on:**

**“2006 Nat'l Hurricane Conf.”**



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**[www.srh.weather.gov](http://www.srh.weather.gov)**

